Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

26 October 2006

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: October 23, 2006

Conditions Report

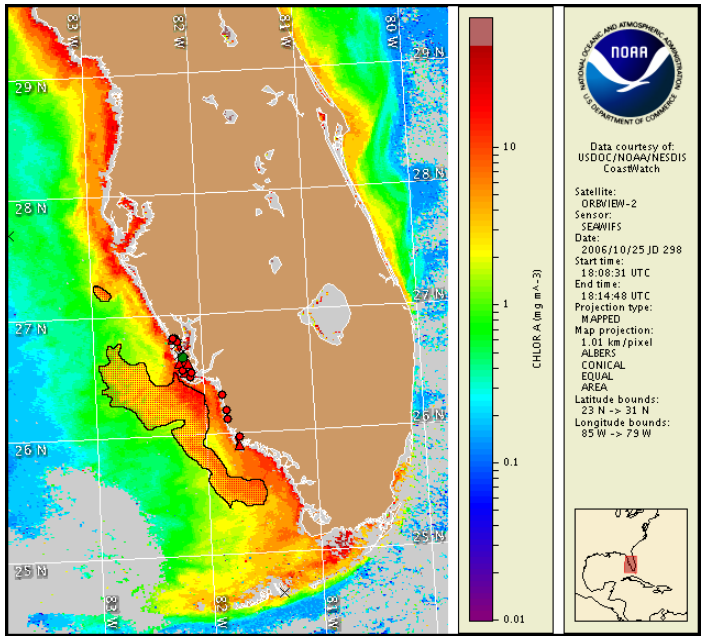
A harmful algal bloom has been identified from Pinellas to central Collier County. Patchy low impacts are possible in Pinellas County and patchy very low impacts are possible from Manatee to central Collier County today, Friday, Sunday and Monday, with moderate impacts possible in the Sanibel Island region on Friday. Friday night through Saturday, patchy high impacts are possible in central Pinellas County and patchy moderate impacts are possible from southern Pinellas to central Collier County.

Analysis

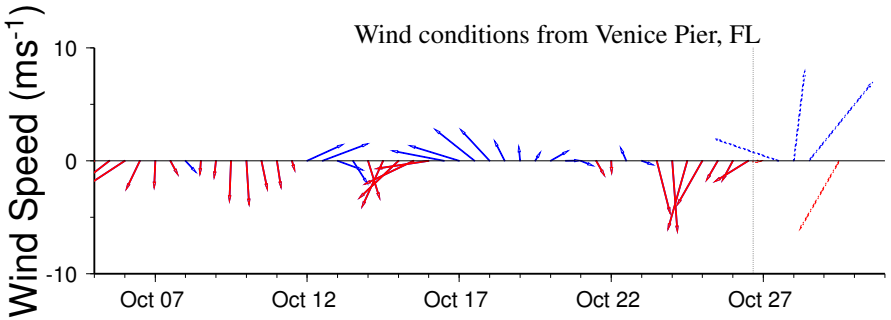
A harmful algal bloom persists from Pinellas to central Collier County. High concentrations of *K. brevis* were identified at Redington Pier, Pinellas County this week (FWRI, 10/23). Concentrations have also increased up to medium in the lower Tampa Bay region, the Pine Island and Gasparilla Sound regions of Charlotte and Lee County, and in the Marco Island region of central Collier County (FWRI, 10/23) over the past week. Medium concentrations have also been identified offshore central Collier County. The bloom is predominantly mixed in the northern portion. Although chlorophyll levels appear to have intensified along the coast over the last couple days, levels are generally slightly lower than reported in the previous bulletin based on satellite imagery (10/21-10/25). Chlorophyll levels offshore Pinellas to northern Sarasota County continue to be elevated up to 17μg/L from 27°56.3'N 82°59'W to 27°22.4'N 82°45.1'W, and up to 33μg/L in the Siesta/Casey Key and Englewood Beach regions. Patches of elevated chlorophyll are also visible in a band south to 26°10.2'N 82°4.9'W and alongshore northern Collier County.

Reports of dead fish in Pinellas and discolored water in Lee County have been received over the past few days, as well as respiratory irritation in Collier County. Further intensification of the bloom is possible over the next few days; particularly in Pinellas, Lee and Collier County where the bloom extends offshore. Continued southerly transport is expected.

~Fisher, Keller

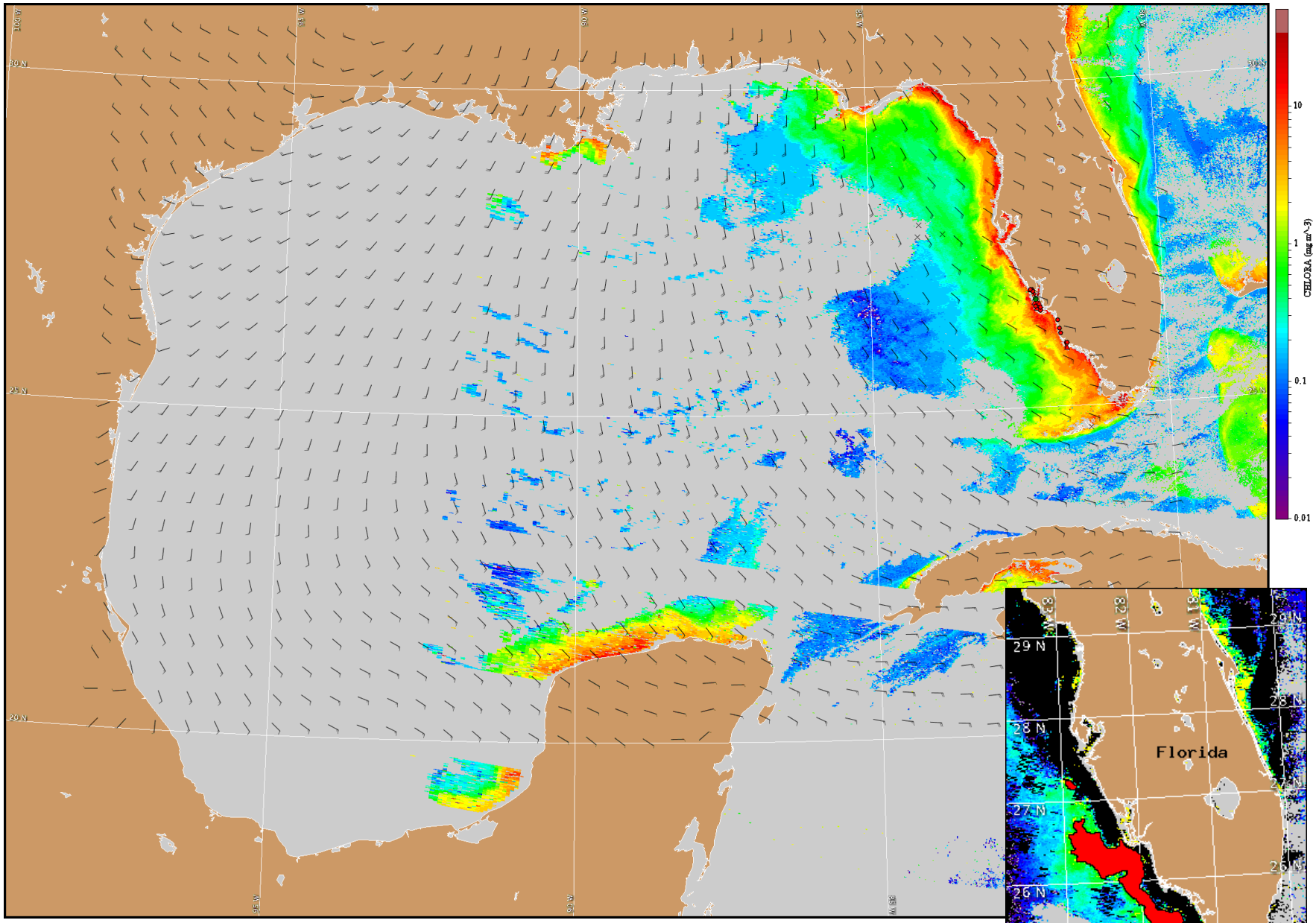


Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration categories and corresponding cell count values from Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. For a key to the cell concentration descriptions, visit http://research.myfwc.com.Cell concentration sampling data from October 16-23 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

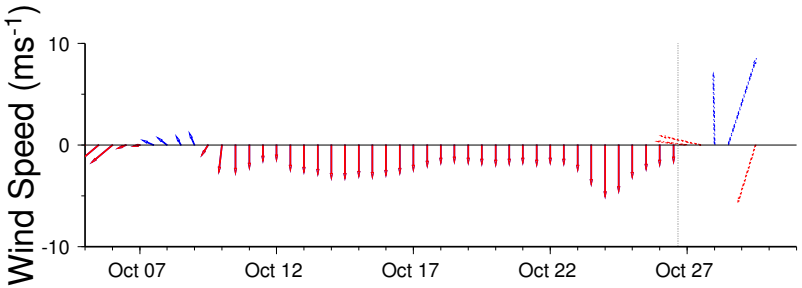
Easterlies today (10kts, 5m/s) will strengthen (15-20kts,8-10m/s) and shift southerly by Friday. Southwest- erlies Friday night shifting northwesterly Saturday(15-20kts). Northerlies Saturday night expected to become northeasterly Sunday and Monday up to 15kts.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for October 27, 2006 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from October 16-23 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

Verifi ed HAB areas shown in red. Other bloom areas shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

Wind conditions from Naples, FL



Wind conditions from Clearwater Beach, FL